

Met briefing, AM 041112
or
Met briefing, the last

Weather and cloud outlook for today, Friday

Cloud forecasts from the GFS model for noon today show little or no change from yesterday's forecasts. In the northern part of the track, we expect outflow cirrus from a system currently over Las Vegas (slightly further west than in yesterday's forecast). Also maintained is the disagreement between the eta model and the GFS for low cloudiness over the ARM site, with the GFS suggesting clearing and the eta suggesting cloud. The eta also has more high cloud over the ARM site than the GFS. I would have to say that it looks like the eta is the better forecast for noon today. For current conditions, I suggest using the Langley ARM satellite page at: <http://angler.larc.nasa.gov/armsgp/> and clicking on the GOES midwest link. Looking at the last loop (RGP 2,4,2-4) will get you some low cloud detection for nighttime. You can see the low cloud rotating southward underneath the upper level cirrus. That upper level cirrus, moreover, though patchy, looks significant and is likely to worsen as the day goes on (the low cloud situation there may improve). As I said yesterday, it is dicey if you are looking for clear skies. Given that the local forecasters have now gone to mostly cloudy for the ARM area for today (from partly cloudy in yesterday's forecast for today), and by the look of the satellite picture, I would say that my call on the ARM site clouds in yesterday's briefing was unduly optimistic. At this time, it really does not look very good for clear skies. The decision to avoid this objective looks good. At this time, the Gulf is cloudy along the Aura track – mostly low cloud.

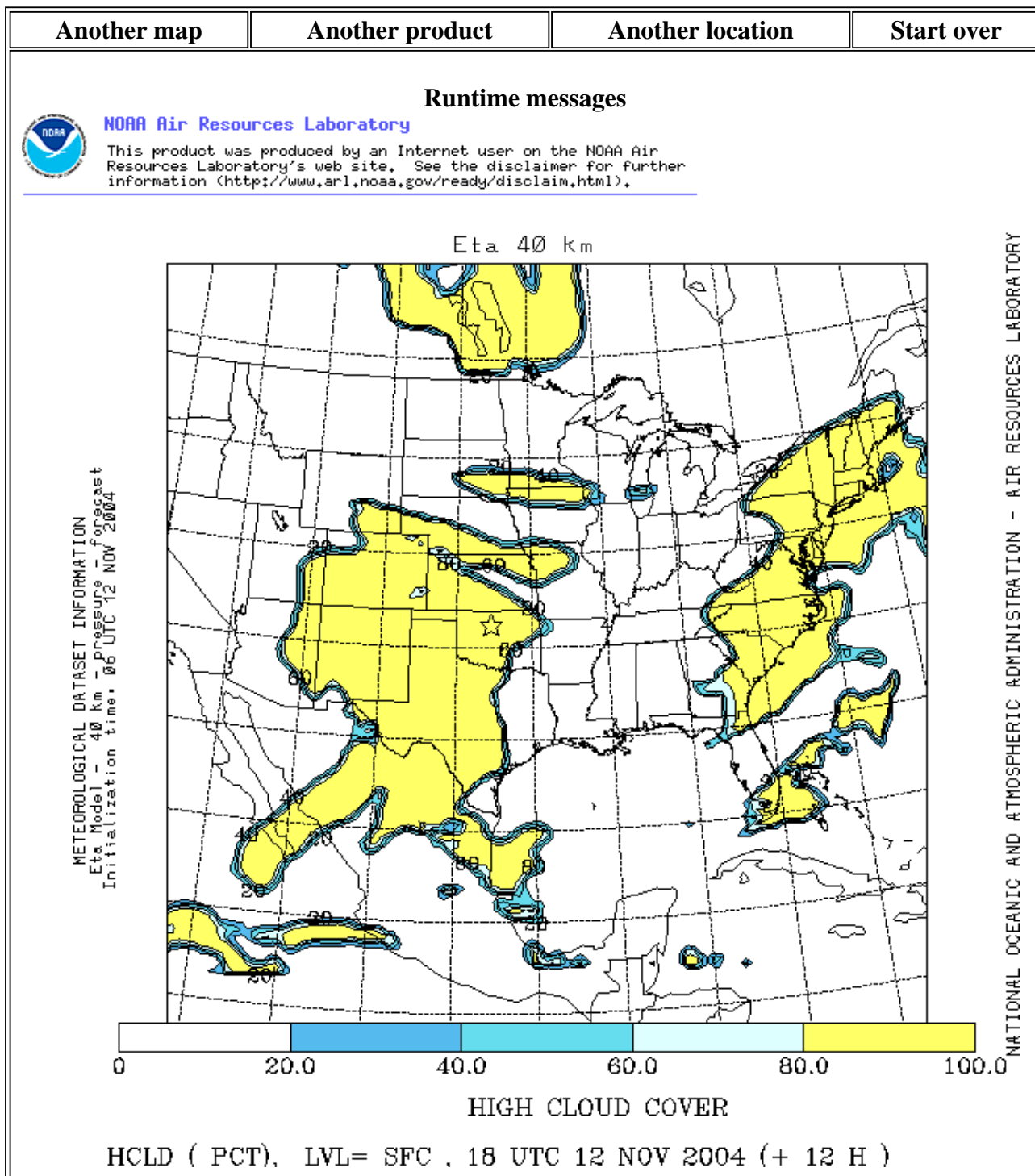
The local weather forecast is consistent with previous ones. Cloudy and cool with highs in the low 60s and north winds 10 to 15. No problems for the flight. For those of you staying later, the weekend looks cool, cloudy and showery. I suggest <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx/forecasts.htm> for details.

I have attached the eta model cloud forecasts. The GFS forecasts are available at <http://bocachica.arc.nasa.gov/AVE/Forecasting.html>, as are satellite pictures that can show the low cloudiness over the Gulf.

Best regards for a successful flight.

L.

Map centered over: 36.15 -97.71



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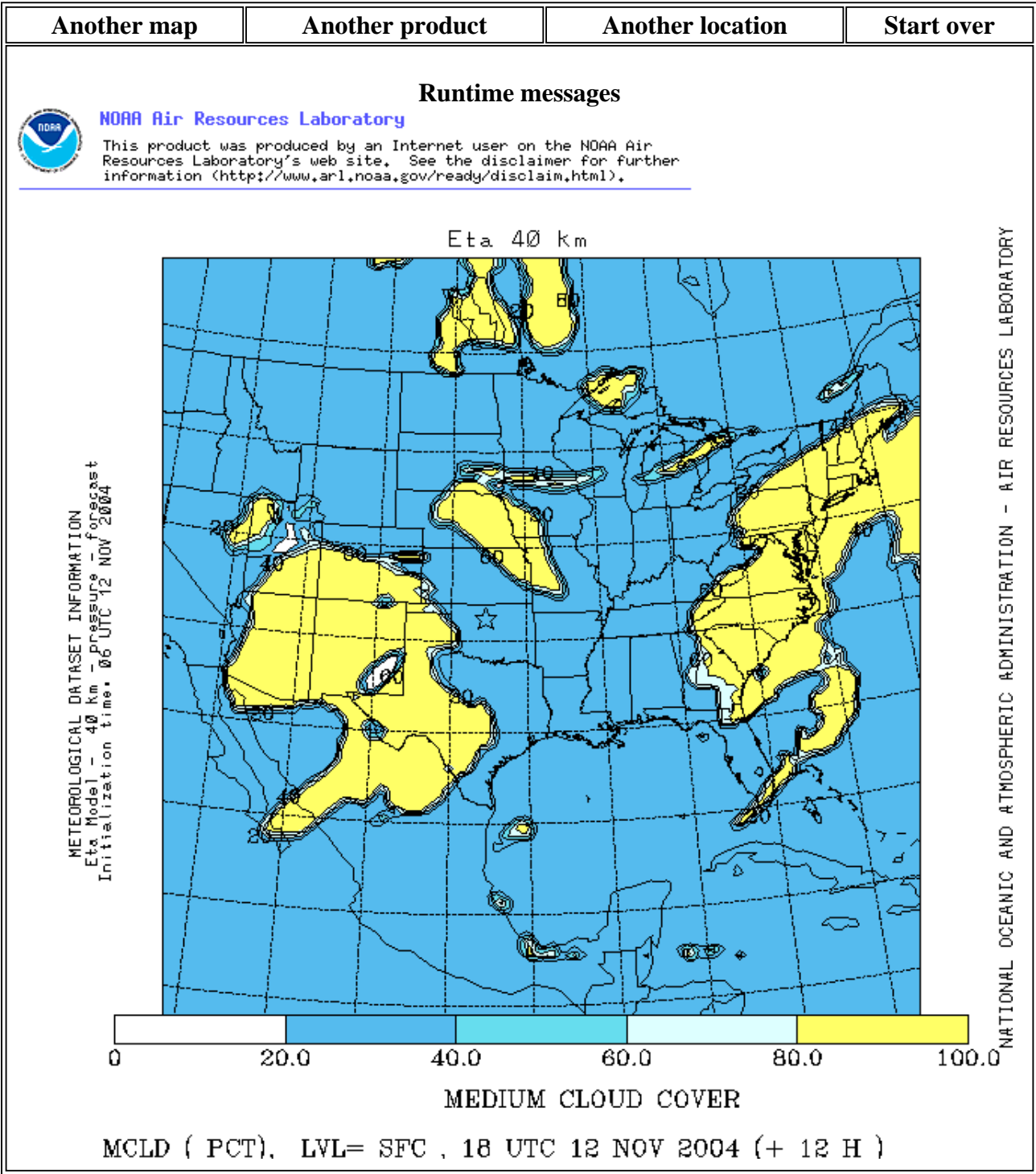
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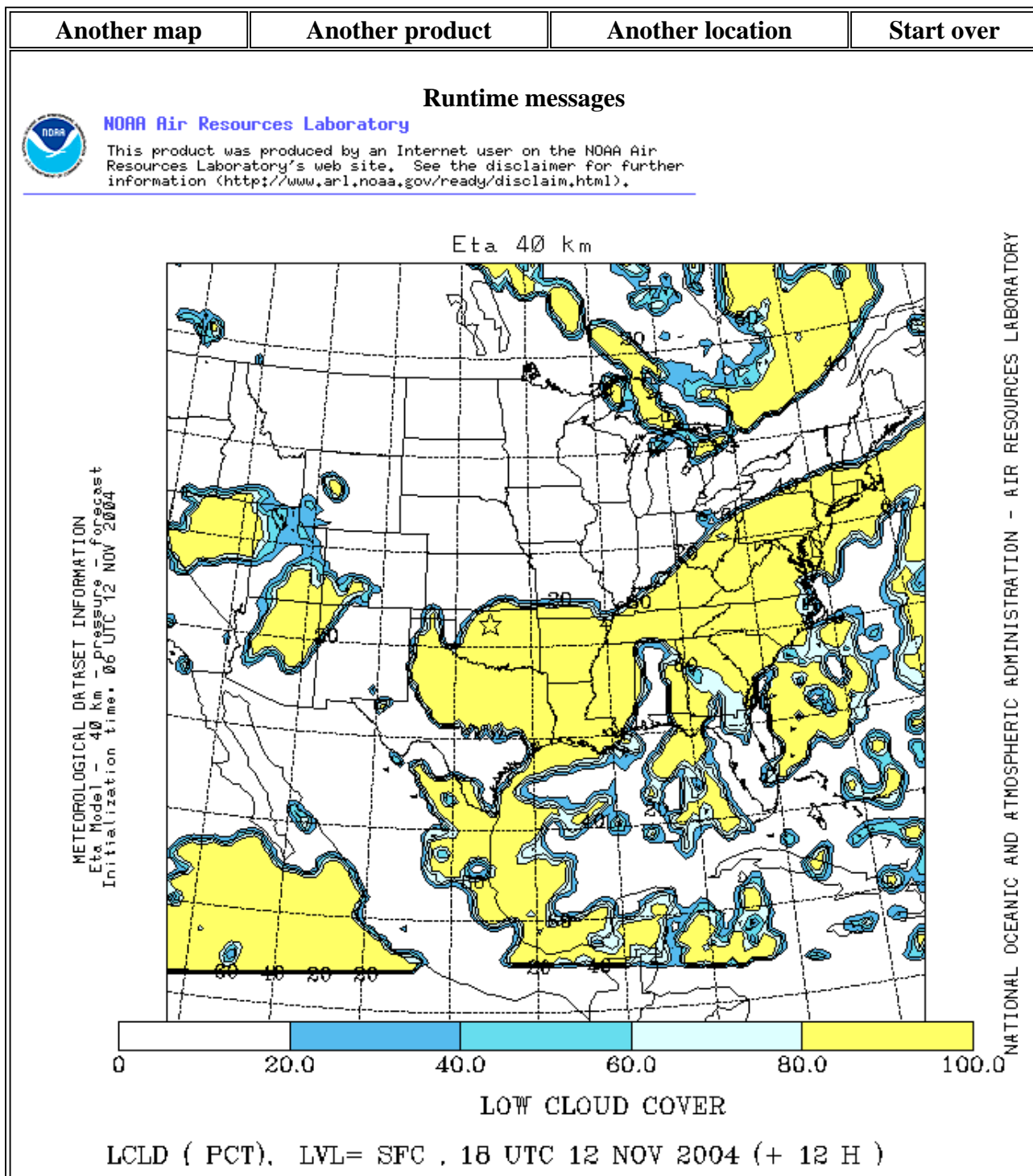
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